

MARIN COUNTY
Program of Responsive Treatment and Linkages (PORTAL) – (\$810,539 grant)

Marin's PORTAL project addresses the county's mental health service gaps of providing a continuum of care from assessments in the Juvenile Hall to community service delivery through a joint effort between the Probation Department, Community Mental Health, the County Office of Education and local law enforcement. PORTAL is anchored in the evidence-based Functional Family Therapy (FFT) model but also incorporates such best practices as Aggression Replacement Training and Trauma-focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy. In addition, Marin is laying the ground-work for Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care which, once fully implemented, will become yet another resource PORTAL can utilize.

Prior to PORTAL admission, minors will undergo several assessments: MAYSI screening, staff interviews, grant-funded SCID-I (Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders) and if necessary, MRA (Model Risk Assessment). Additionally, full psychiatric evaluations are available to youth in limited cases. A specially constructed database compiles and aggregates the outcomes of these assessments and assists the PORTAL Team in monitoring individual case progress.

The key component to PORTAL is the multi-dimensional, culturally diverse Case Management Team. Team members include a Mental Health Supervisor, Mental Health Practitioner, Family Advocate and Expeditor. The Expeditor is a Deputy Probation Officer who plays a critical role in moving PORTAL participants quickly through the Juvenile Hall process as well as following youth from detention and into services to ensure individualized treatment plans continue. The PORTAL Team is available around-the-clock, providing a myriad of wraparound intervention services, parenting skill training, substance abuse treatment, linkages to programs provided through the Children's System of Care and aftercare follow-up. Licensed therapists provide the FFT component and will serve 3 to 5 families at a time for up to 4 months. PORTAL plans to serve approximately 45 youth and their families throughout the grant period.

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